

Mary Y



Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.
(703) 351-7676

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

13 February 1986

Dear Ambassador Godley:

I regret that I am still having some difficulty in figuring out how we can respond to your requests without violating Agency guidelines and the President's Executive Order 12333. At the moment the problem is in the hands of our lawyers. Moreover, almost all the old hands who remember the era in which you are interested have retired, as [redacted] did recently. I am trying to sort all this out and hopefully can come up with some way of accommodating your interests, as well as somebody knowledgeable who can be of assistance to both you and myself in this matter. I will let you know when I have worked something out or if I can't.

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Sincerely, /

[Redacted Signature]

George V. Lauder

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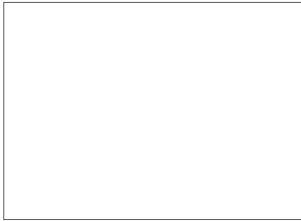
Ambassador G. McMurtrie Godley

[Redacted Address]

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G. MC MURTRIE GODLEY



607-263-5154

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January 28, 1986

George Lauder
Public Affairs
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington DC 20505

Dear Mr. Lauder,

Last year you very kindly referred me to [redacted] to help me in writing a book on my ambassadorship in Laos. [redacted] was extremely helpful and he did what he could to help Jinny St. Goar, my gofer, and me in our work. Among other requests, we sent him a series of questions which he tells me he referred, prior to his retirement, to your office with a request that they be researched and that we be provided directly with such information as can be released.

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I have never heard from your office, but assume that the information desired requires some research.

We are now getting on to the nitty gritty of writing. One of the first things that must be handled is Vang Pao's military offensive of July-September 1969 which was called "About Face." The planning, coordination, and follow-up was done by Agency personnel in Laos under my direction. As far as I can recall, practically all the reporting was through Agency channels. I therefore would be extremely grateful if someone could review those reports and be available to discuss them with me. I am particularly interested in the strategic concept and its tactical development. I am also anxious to obtain data as to the booty seized by the friendly for I vividly recall our belief that "About Face" resulted in more booty than had until that time been taken by either French, American or South Vietnamese forces in Indochina. It was definitely a resounding victory and has to my knowledge never been publicized.

I realize it will probably be impossible for you to supply me with any written material on this, but I would hope that if that cannot be done, one of your officers could review what you have and discuss it with me. I could readily go to the headquarters at some mutually convenient date.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Most sincerely,


G. McMurtrie Godley